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## DISPOSABLE SHOPPING CART HANDLE SANITARY COVER

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## DISPOSABLE SHOPPING CART HANDLE SANITARY COVER

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### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention relates to shopping carts, and more particularly to shopping cart handle sanitary covers.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Most of the public buys groceries at supermarkets. Probably just about everyone has grabbed one of the shopping carts at a supermarket and pushed it around while buying groceries and other items. The handle or grip of the shopping cart is tubular in shape and is normally made from a tubular metal or plastic product. Everyone else that has previously used the shopping cart grabs the grip at the same place while pushing the shopping cart.

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Because the shopping carts will be used for years and because the shopping carts are either never cleaned or not cleaned in a sanitary manner, germs can be passed from one shopper to the next. In other words, a person using the shopping cart previously may have had a communicable disease. Shoppers using that same  
25 cart thereafter will be grabbing the same shopping cart grip in the same manner as the person who had the communicable disease.

Young children and infants are especially at risk as they are placed in the seat of the shopping cart where they inevitably put their mouths on the grip or put their

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**DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION**

5           A cart grip sanitary cover is provided having multiple layers each with a top face, a bottom face, and a periphery formed therebetween. The bottom face of each layer has adhesive formed thereon for adhering to a top face of an adjacent layer therebeneath. The layers are stacked with a bottommost layer being attachable to a grip of a cart. In use, a topmost layer of the sanitary cover is removable for exposing  
10 another layer therebeneath for providing a sanitary surface to be gripped by a user.

          In one embodiment, the layers may each be flexible and formed of an elastomeric material (i.e. plastic, rubber, etc.). As an option, the layers of the sanitary cover may be stacked so that the peripheries thereof are in alignment.

15           In another embodiment, the layers of the sanitary cover may each have a rectangular configuration. Further, the layers of the sanitary cover may each have an area substantially similar to an area of the grip of the cart. Still yet, the layers of the sanitary cover may each have a substantially similar shape and size.

20           In still another embodiment, a non-adhesive covering may be positioned on the bottom face of the bottommost layer of the sanitary cover for protecting the adhesive of the bottommost layer. Such non-adhesive covering may be removable for attachment of the adhesive of the bottommost layer of the sanitary cover to the  
25 grip of the cart.

          In still yet another embodiment, a dispensing container may be provided for storing a plurality of the sanitary covers. Such dispensing container may include an opening for dispensing the sanitary covers therefrom.

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As an option, the cart may include a shopping cart, or any other cart-like device with a grip.

A method is also provided for affording a sanitary surface on a grip of a cart.

5 Initially, a sanitary cover similar to that described hereinabove is attached to a grip of a cart. Next, a topmost layer of the sanitary cover is removed for exposing another layer therebeneath for providing a sanitary surface for being gripped by a user.

10 In another embodiment, a cart grip sanitary cover formed of a single layer is provided with a top face, a bottom face, and a periphery formed therebetween. The bottom face of the sanitary cover has adhesive formed thereon. Further, a non-adhesive covering is positioned on the bottom face of the sanitary cover for protecting the adhesive. Such non-adhesive covering is adapted for being removed  
15 for attachment of the adhesive to a grip of a cart. For providing an optimal sanitary surface, the sanitary cover has an area substantially similar to an area of the grip of the cart.

20 These and other advantages of the present invention will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description and studying the various figures of the drawings.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

5 The foregoing and other aspects and advantages are better understood from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment of the invention with reference to the drawings, in which:

10 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shopping cart equipped with a sanitary cart grip cover, in accordance with one embodiment.

15 Figure 2 is a close-up perspective view of the sanitary cart grip cover of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the sanitary cart grip cover of Figure 1.

20 Figure 4 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the cart grip sanitary cover taken along line 4-4 of Figure 3.

25 Figure 5 illustrates a close-up side view of the sanitary cover prior to being attached to the grip of the cart, in accordance with one embodiment.

Figure 6 illustrates an alternate embodiment sanitary cover including a single layer.

30 Figure 7 illustrates an optional dispensing container that may be used to dispense any of the embodiments set forth hereinabove.

Figure 8 illustrates a method for affording a sanitary surface on a grip of a cart, in accordance with one embodiment.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 illustrates a shopping cart **100** including a basket portion **102** having  
5 a bottom **104** and a plurality of sides **106** coupled thereto and extending upwardly  
therefrom. The basket portion **102** thus defines an interior space **108** for storing  
articles therein. Also included is a plurality of wheels coupled to the bottom **104** of  
the shopping cart **100** for transporting purposes.

10 The shopping cart **100** further includes a handle assembly **110** having a pair  
of substantially vertical posts **112** with inboard ends coupled to the sides **106** of the  
shopping cart **100** and extending upwardly and rearwardly therefrom. Associated  
therewith is a substantially horizontal handle **114** coupled to outboard ends of the  
posts **112**. Such handle **114** further includes a grip **116** for being handled by a user  
15 to maneuver the shopping cart **100**.

In one embodiment, the grip **116** includes a substantially tubular  
configuration and is constructed from a plastic material. In various other  
embodiments, the grip **116** may be constructed from a separate or integral metallic or  
20 elastomeric piece, or any other material with any desired type of configuration that is  
capable of being gripped by a user.

While a shopping cart **100** is specifically described, it should be noted that  
the principles set forth herein may be applied in the context of any cart-like device.  
25 For example, an airport luggage cart, any cart used by multiple users, or any other  
cart-like device may be considered within the scope of the present invention.

As shown in Figure 1 and more particularly in Figures 2 and 3, also included  
is a cart grip sanitary cover **118** having multiple layers **120** each with a top face, a  
30 bottom face, and a periphery formed therebetween. The layers **120** are stacked one

on top of another with a bottommost layer **121** being attached to the grip **116** of the cart **100**. In use, a topmost layer **122** of the sanitary cover **118** is removable for exposing another layer **120** therebeneath for providing a sanitary surface for being gripped by a user. Thus, each user of the cart **100** is provided with a new sanitary surface to grip **116** during use.

Figure **4** illustrates a cross-sectional view of the cart grip sanitary cover **118** taken along line 4-4 of Figure **3**. As shown, the layers **120** of the sanitary cover **118** may be stacked so that the peripheries thereof are in alignment. Further, the layers **120** of the sanitary cover **118** may each have a substantially similar shape and size. Of course, the sizes and shapes may be altered per the desires of the user.

In one embodiment, each layer **120** may have a thickness of less than  $1/16^{\text{th}}$  of an inch or, even more preferably, less than  $1/32^{\text{nd}}$  or  $1/64^{\text{th}}$  of an inch. By this design, any large number of layers **120** may be included without substantially augmenting the diameter of the grip **116**.

Still yet, the layers **120** of the sanitary cover **118** may each have an outer surface area and length substantially similar to an area and length of the grip **116** of the cart **100**, respectively, for providing optimal sanitary protection. In one embodiment, this similarity may range between 50% - 150% of the area and length of the grip **116** of the cart **100**. Of course, this design may be varied per the desires of the user.

As an option, antibacterial agents or other types of sanitizing substances may be used to lace the layers **120** of the sanitary cover **118**. This feature may be used to further enhance the sanitary function of the sanitary cover **118**.

Figure **5** illustrates a side view of the sanitary cover **118** prior to being attached to the grip **116** of the cart **100**, in accordance with one embodiment. As



shown in Figure 5, each of the layers 120 is equipped with a smooth planar top face, a smooth planar bottom face, and a rectangular periphery formed therebetween. The bottom face of each layer 120 has adhesive 500 formed on an entire surface thereof for adhering to a top face of an adjacent layer 120.

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A bottommost layer 121 has a non-adhesive covering 502 on the bottom face thereof for protecting the adhesive of the bottommost layer 121. As an option, the non-adhesive covering may have an area and a length substantially similar to an area and length of the remaining layers 120 set forth hereinabove. Moreover, the non-adhesive covering may be constructed of waxed paper or any other suitable material.

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In use, a topmost layer 122 of the sanitary cover 118 is removable for exposing another layer 120 therebeneath for providing a sanitary surface for being gripped by a user.

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Figure 6 illustrates an alternate embodiment 600 including a single layer 602. A bottom face of such single layer 602 has adhesive 606 formed thereon. Further, a non-adhesive covering 608 similar to the one of Figure 5 is positioned on the bottom face of the present embodiment for protecting the adhesive 606. Such non-adhesive covering 608 is adapted for being removable for attachment of the adhesive 606 of the present embodiment to a grip 116 of the cart 100.

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The present embodiment is thus adapted for being applied to a grip 116 of the cart 100 one by one, and disposed after use. In the alternative, the present embodiment may be applied one after another, leaving previous layers on the grip 116 of the cart 100.

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Figure 7 illustrates an optional dispensing container 700 that may be used to dispense any of the embodiments set forth hereinabove. As shown, such dispensing container is equipped with a substantially rectangular configuration including a

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bottom face **702**, a top face **704**, and a plurality of side faces **706** formed therebetween. An interior space is thus defined for storing the sanitary covers **118** and/or **600**. Further, the top face **704** of the dispensing container **700** includes an opening **708** for dispensing the sanitary covers **118** and/or **600** therefrom.

5

As such, the sanitary covers **118** and/or **600** are each dispensable from the dispensing container **700** and the associated non-adhesive covering is removable for attachment of the associated adhesive to the grip **116** of the cart **100**.

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Figure **8** illustrates a method **800** for affording a sanitary surface on a grip **116** of the cart **100**, in accordance with one embodiment. Initially, in operation **802**, a sanitary cover **118** similar to that described hereinabove is removed from a dispenser like that shown in Figure **7** or any other type of dispenser. Next, in operation **804**, the non-adhesive covering is removed for exposing an adhesive layer on a bottommost one of the layers **120** or, in the embodiment of a single layer, exposing an adhesive layer on the single layer.

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Next, in operation **806**, the sanitary cover **118** is attached to the grip **116** of the cart **100**. This may be accomplished by wrapping the sanitary cover **118** around the grip **116** of the cart **100**, and adhering it thereto.

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Then, in the embodiment of Figure **5** including multiple layers **120**, a top layer may be removed at any time for exposing another layer therebeneath for providing a sanitary surface to be gripped by a user. See operation **808**. As an option, a corner, side or edge of each layer **120** may be equipped with a tab or some other non-adhesive member that may be gripped by a user to facilitate the removal process. This operation may be continued until a bottommost layer **121** is exposed, after which a new sanitary cover **118** may be dispensed and applied to the grip **116** of the cart **100**.

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While various embodiments have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example only, and not  
10 limitation. Thus, the breadth and scope of a preferred embodiment should not be limited by any of the above-described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the following claims and their equivalents.